

IAF

CONNECTIONS

The Latest News from the Inter-American Foundation

IN THE NEWS

IAF at the OAS

Members of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States heard about the Inter-American Foundation's programs at the "Investing in People" seminar, co-sponsored by the IAF and the Permanent Mission of the U.S. to the Organization of American States (OAS) on May 4.

The half-day seminar explored IAF's contemporary approach to grassroots development involving three sectors: corporate foundations; associations of U.S.-based migrants; and elected community leaders. Representatives from grantees who work daily with these sectors described their experiences to the audience in the OAS's Hall of the Americas. Fernando Castellanos, executive director of Fundación Zonamerica, Uruguay, discussed RedEAmérica, a network of corporate foundations in the Americas. Jesús Aguilar, executive director, Centro de Recursos Centro Americanos (CARECEN International-El Salvador), described how the IAF is working with collective remittances sent by hometown associations to their communities of origin. Rubén Calle, president, Asociación de Parroquias Rurales, Ecuador, explained how his organization promotes discussions on policy issues with various actors in society at the grassroots level.

John Maisto, U.S. Ambassador to the OAS, opened the seminar by pointing out the IAF's focus on central issues of the Summit of the Americas process, an important mandate for the organization. OAS Assistant Secretary General Luigi Einaudi noted the IAF's work with remittances and of local governments, each an increasingly important force in development. The seminar was moderated by David Valenzuela, IAF's president. After Judith Morrison, senior IAF representative, summarized the presentations, the ambassadors present provided their own lively commentary.



Secretary Einaudi shows IAF/OAS publication *Building Democracy from the Grassroots to participants.*

OAS Office of Public Information

Photo Exhibit

Following the seminar, the IAF launched *Making Their Way*, an exhibit excerpted from a 135-page book of photos by Miguel Sayago of Chile, portraying some of the beneficiaries of IAF's assistance in their homes, neighborhoods and workplaces. Chilean Ambassador to the OAS Esteban Tomic, Ambassador Maisto, David Valenzuela and Frank Yturria, chairman of IAF's board of directors, welcomed the guests crowding the Patio Azteca of the OAS' headquarters, where the photos were on display. The exhibit had already been shown in conjunction with the ministerial meeting of the OAS Inter-American Committee on Social Development meeting held April 5-6, in Santiago, Chile.



From left to right, Valenzuela, Amb. Tomic, Sayago, Yturria, and Amb. Maisto with photography exhibit.

OAS Office of Public Information

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Grantee News

IAF Call for Proposals

The IAF welcomes innovative proposals for grassroots development from private organizations throughout Latin American and the Caribbean. Due to the large volume of proposals received in recent years, applicants are reminded that the IAF will only consider submissions that strictly adhere to our instructions as to information required, criteria and page limit. For more details see the applications guidelines at how to apply for a grant on the Web site. The deadline is June 30, 2004.

Grantees Represented in Africa and Asia

Funded by the Avina Foundation, IAF grantee Rede de Informações para o Terceiro Setor (RITS) served as the official media outlet at the World Development Forum in Mumbai, India, January 16-21. RITS is a Brazilian nonprofit organization promoting digital inclusion in the Northeast through the project Ação Digital Nordeste (Northeast Digital Action). With additional support from IBM, RITS provides computer equipment, training and Internet access to 40 NGOs and base groups serving low-income communities. For more information log onto <www.rits.org.br>.

Three representatives of IAF grantees shared their experience in community organizing with civil society groups at the CIVICUS World Assembly held in Botswana, March 21-25: Rosario Quispe of Warmi Sayajsunqo Association, Argentina; Rafael Marquez of Unión de Museos Comunitarios de Oaxaca (UNMCE), Mexico; and John McPhail, of Programas Comunitarios para El Salvador (PRO-COSAL), El Salvador. CIVICUS was founded in 1993 to build an alliance of civil society organizations around the world. IAF deputy vice-president Marcy Kelly moderated IAF's panel describing how misguided development assistance can hinder practices of engaged participation and delay a community's capacity for self-governance. Following the conference, the grantee representatives also met with other civil society personnel in the Institute for Democracy South Africa (IDASA) in Pretoria.

Study Visit

As part of a learning initiative conducted by the Synergos Institute in New York, representatives of IAF Mexican grantees Fundación del Empresariado Sonorense, A.C. (FESAC) and Fundación del Empresariado Chihuahuense (FECHAC) visited The Minneapolis Foundation (TMF) April 19-20 to study its management and funding practices. Founded in 1915, TMF is one of the oldest community foundations in the U.S. It recently started to award funding based on learning and policy development rather than solely on need. IAF deputy vice-president Kelly accompanied the representatives and participated in a meeting of the board of directors' program committee. To learn more about The Minneapolis Foundation, log onto <www.minneapolisfoundation.org>.

Awards

IAF grantee Ação Comunitária do Brasil (ACB) was selected as the executing agency of a program sponsored by the Brazilian and World Bank to provide initial employment opportunities for young adults. ACB's training for young people yields marketable design skills applicable to small business ventures or employment.

Twenty representatives of IAF grantee organizations were selected in March for the International Labor Organization's (ILO) online local development course. Created by the ILO's International Training Centre's Delnet Program, the course aims to teach practitioners, including representatives from local governments, NGOs and businesses, an integrated economic development approach to improving the quality of life of residents of a given location. For the list of candidates and details on applying, log onto <www.itcilo.it/delnet>.

IAF grantee Asociación para el Desarrollo de la Costa Atlántica (PANA PANA) was selected as the primary institution to implement a Nicaraguan government program subsidizing home construction and improvements. Instituto de la Vivienda Urbana y Rural (INVUR), a government entity, will contribute \$1,300 per home and PANA PANA will offer families credit to cover additional construction costs. PANA PANA plans to help 50 families in the municipality of Waspam. Currently the IAF supports PANA PANA's expansion of a revolving fund extending loans for small-scale agricultural, craft, fishing and business projects in indigenous communities.

RedEAmérica Update

RedEAmérica, the Inter-American Network of Corporate Foundations and Actions for Grassroots Development, has grown to 43 members in 12 countries and continues to welcome membership applications from corporations and corporate foundations experienced in grassroots development. The network is currently developing a capacity-building program (coordinated by the Corona Foundation of Colombia) and a learning program (coordinated by the Juan Minetti Foundation of Argentina) to help new members with their own initiatives supporting community organizations. In May, more than 40 representatives of RedEAmérica met in Córdoba, Argentina, to advance these programs.

National networks in Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, and Ecuador are also developing. A technical group was formed in Brazil to assist non-members in supporting community organizations. RedEAmérica members met in Ecuador in May to develop a work plan for a fund for grassroots development.

Twenty-five RedEAmérica members have standardized cooperative agreements with the IAF for channeling resources to self-help projects benefiting the very poor. A standardized instrument for measuring and reporting the results of projects under design will be the topic of a hemispheric August workshop in Argentina.

*Upcoming Events***INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C., JUNE 16-18**

IAF, the World Bank and KfW Entwicklungsbank, Germany's development bank, are co-sponsoring a local development conference exploring new modes of supporting multi-sectoral, demand-driven, fund-based programs for increasing access to basic services, thereby contributing to local development and poverty alleviation. Attendance is by invitation only. For information, see <www1.worldbank.org/sp/ldconference/index.asp>

TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, MIAMI, FLORIDA, JUNE 22-24

IAF-sponsored seminars on promoting successful participation for communities are scheduled for the second day of the conference for mayors and local leaders in the Americas organized by Miami-Dade County and Florida International University. Speakers include representatives from IAF grantees Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana (CLAEH), Uruguay; Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE), El Salvador; and Federación Asociación Centros Educativos de Producción Total (FACEPT), Argentina. Partner organizations DelNet, of Italy, and Community Housing and Finance International of Costa Rica will also participate. For more information visit <[//training.itcilo.it/delnet/fiumiami2004/index.htm](http://training.itcilo.it/delnet/fiumiami2004/index.htm)>.

WEAVING A NEW SOCIETY, CASA SANTO DOMINGO, ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA, AUGUST 15-21

The IAF, CIVICUS and the United Nations Development Program are co-sponsoring an international conference organized by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, an international NGO working to strengthen relationships of strategic development partners. The conference aims to share innovative approaches in development through interaction among participants. For more information, log onto <www.ica-international.org>.



The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) is an independent agency of the United States government that provides grants to non-governmental and community-based organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean for innovative, sustainable and participatory self-help programs. The IAF primarily funds partnerships among grassroots and nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments, directed at improving the quality of life of poor people and strengthening participation, accountability and democratic practices. To contribute to a better understanding of the development process, the IAF also shares its experiences and the lessons it has learned.

**Inter-American Foundation
901 N. Stuart Street
10th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203
phone: 703.306.4301
fax: 703.306.4365
e-mail: info@iaf.gov
web: www.iaf.gov**

Workshops and Meetings

CHICAGO DIALOGUE

The IAF will conclude its series of five dialogues on transnationalism and community development with a meeting in Chicago on May 25. The dialogues have brought together local foundations, immigrant organizations, hometown associations (HTAs), municipal authorities and academics to discuss how transnationalism impacts immigrant communities. As a result of the meetings, participants are more aware of constraints on HTAs and new transnational links have emerged to produce new project ideas. For more information on the dialogues see the IAF Web site's news and events.

WORKSHOP ON LEADERSHIP AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR COMMUNITIES OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, LA CEIBA, HONDURAS, FEBRUARY 1-4

More than 150 participants representing 80 NGOs in Latin America and seventeen countries attended the workshop co-sponsored by the IAF. U.S. Ambassador Larry Palmer analyzed Honduras and the region for the participants, and President Ricardo Maduro of Honduras closed the conference session with a commitment to support a committee to explore Afro-Honduran affairs.

The workshop's objectives were to provide training on implementing local development partnerships; to draw attention to the successes as well as the challenges of implementing local economic development partnerships; to create an opportunity for increasing channels of communication among civil society, the private sector and government and with officials from participating institutions of the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race in Latin America (IAC); and to promote the participation of Afro-descendant youth. For more information, log onto <www.iac-race.org>.

Presentations

On January 21 Terry Tracy, U. S. alternative representative to the OAS, discussed the Special Summit of the Americas in Mexico and its implications for the IAF. For more information on the Summit, visit <www.summitoftheamericas.org/default.htm>.

On April 15, Antanas Mockus, a former president of the National University of Colombia elected to two terms as mayor of Bogota, spoke on local development. As mayor, he presided over one of the most remarkable municipal transformations in recent memory. It transformed Bogota from a crime-ridden, demoralized and decaying city into a safe, livable and smoothly functioning metropolis with civic pride.

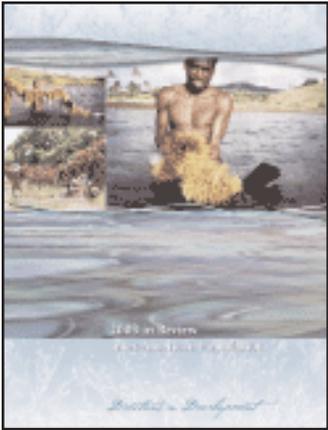
Indigenous legislators and leaders from Bolivia sponsored by the U.S. Department of State shared views on policies and developments: Faustino Anca Villca, Potosí; José Bailaba, Santa Cruz; Rosendo Copa, Oruro; Juan Gabriel Bautista, La Paz; Isabel Ortega, Oruro; Félix Vásquez, Potosí and Germán Yucra, Cochabamba.

Kristin Ehrgood, president and co-founder of Sapiientis, a non-profit organization in Puerto Rico that promotes leaders in all fields who value public education and are committed to advocating for lasting change, spoke on May 5.

On May 3, Tim Mahoney, director of the office of poverty reduction, economic growth, agriculture and trade at U.S. Agency for Development, talked about asset-based development initiative and its connection to grassroots development.

Cesar Rios, director of Asociación Alianza para el Desarrollo de la Microempresa de El Salvador (ALPIMED), spoke on May 11. His group offers micro-credit support and education to more than 20,000 owners of small and medium-sized enterprises. Rios was visiting Washington in search of new ways El Salvadoran hometown associations can support investment in micro-enterprises.

IAF Publications



The Spanish and Portuguese versions of *Grassroots Development* for 2003 have been posted to the Web site. *2003 in Review* has been distributed in English and is in production in Spanish and Portuguese. The English version of *Grassroots Development* for 2004 is in production.

Reprints of *Territorio Local y Desarrollo: Experiencias en Chile y Uruguay*, based on a six-month study by CLAEH (Centro Lati-

noamericano de Economía Humana) and SUR (Corporación de Estudios Sociales y Educación) are ready and maybe requested by e-mailing publications@iaf.gov.

In Circulation

The University of Florida is using "Stages of Micro-Enterprise Growth in the Dominican Informal Sector," *Grassroots Development* 1983, Vol. 9, No. 2, in a class on Caribbean anthropology .

The American Anthropologist reviewed IAF representative Kevin Healy's *Llamas, Weavings, and Organic Chocolate: Multicultural Grassroots Development in the Andes and Amazon of Bolivia* (Notre Dame Press: 2001) in its September issue.

Lester Salamon's article "The Third Sector in Global Perspectives," published in *Grassroots Development* 2002 Vol. 23, No. 1, was selected for inclusion in Lexis Nexis database.

The University of Massachusetts-Lowell used in a Latin American political science course "IAF's Argentine Grantees: Caught in the Crisis," by Paula Durbin, *Grassroots Development* 2003, Vol. 24, No. 1. The ILO's Delnet program plans to reprint part of the article on its Internet database.

News Link

The IAF's Web site was added to FirstGov en Español, <www.espanol.gov>, a single Internet gateway to more than 120,000 federal, state and local government Web pages available in Spanish.

Media Round up

La Prensa Grafica, an El Salvadorian daily, described the IAF-supported transnational project of CARECEN Internacional-El Salvador which will enable 20 communities in El Salvador and their corresponding HTAs in the U.S. to initiate grassroots development projects in collaboration with the respective municipal governments. The project will be carried out in partnership with FUNDE and will include a documentation and dissemination component.

Folha do Sisal, a Brazilian daily, reported in August 2003 that IAF grantee APAEB, an innovative sisal manufacturing association in the Brazilian Northeast, used 50 kilos of its fibers to simulate hair for *Caçadores de Cabeça*, Companhia Viladañça's adaptation of the Broadway production *Head Hunters*. The show, which premiered in Germany in September, analyzes the ritualistic role of hair in different cultures at different times.

On March 3, *El Diario de Hoy*, an El Salvador daily, reported on the collaboration of IAF grantee Fundación para el Desarrollo Humano Sostenible (FUCAD) and El Rescate, its partner in Los Angeles. The organizations inform groups in El Salvador of local development funds available for projects in communities with high remittance traffic.

On April 19, *El Diario de Hoy*, a Salvadoran daily, reported on the work of IAF grantee Agencia de Desarrollo Local para los Municipios de Llopango, Soyapango and San Martín (ADEMISS), which is directed at raising income in lakeside communities through tilapia farming. For more information on ADEMISS see the winter 2003 newsletter. On March 4, another Salvadoran daily published "Crece demanda para entrar al mercado móvil," on IAF grantee REDES Mobile Market whose diversity of products has stimulated consumer demand throughout various municipalities in Mejicanos.

On May 10, *La Prensa*, a Honduran daily, announced IAF's support for Agua para el Pueblo (APP), an NGO working to improve sanitation and access to clean water in Copan Ruins in western Honduras. APP was also featured in an April 29 article in *La Tribuna*, a Tegucigalpa daily.

Executive Travel

In January, David Valenzuela, IAF president, spoke in Barcelona, Spain, on local development at the Iberian Peninsula Seminar organized by the Diputación de Barcelona. In March, he participated in a World Bank internal exercise to better define community-driven development in preparation for the local development conference scheduled for June 15-16, in Washington, D.C., and spoke about North America beyond NAFTA at the Mexican Cultural Institute.

In February, Carolyn Karr, IAF senior vice-president and general counsel, attended the conference on international development and business at Stanford University.

In January, Patrick Breslin, IAF vice-president for external affairs, traveled to Brigham Young University to speak with students on development and IAF initiatives. In April, he spoke at the World Affairs Conference in Colorado.

In January, Ramon Daubon, vice president for programs, was the guest speaker at a staff retreat of Synergos Institute in New York. He spoke in March on IAF projects dealing with youth and entrepreneurship at the annual meeting of governors of the Inter-American Development Bank in Lima, Peru.

Staff Activities

On May 25, IAF representative for Ecuador Marnie Schilken joined Carla Decker, District Government Employees' Federal Credit Union, Jolyne Sanjak, U.S. Agency for International Development, and Geetha Rao, U.S. Department of the Treasury, for a seminar on remittances hosted by the Esquel Group Foundation and Partners of

New Faces

Cindy Soto, IAF's operations staff assistant, has an M.A. in foreign languages from George Mason University a BA in Spanish from Amherst College. She has considerable experience as a legal assistant and in office administration.

María Inés Invernizzi will monitor projects in Uruguay and Paraguay for the IAF. She has a B.A. in international relations from the University of Montevideo, Uruguay. She has worked with MERCOSUR and the Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI).

Megan M. Moriarty, program assistant for Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, has a B.A. in History from the University of Colorado, Boulder and studied Spanish at the University of Costa Rica. Prior to working at the IAF, she was a project manager for Argentina and Chile with Emergent Genetics Inc., an international investment and development firm.

Interns

Claudia A. Roda, Washington College of Law, American University, worked in the Office of General Counsel.

Jennifer Hird, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, researched the housing crisis in Nicaragua.

the Americas. The speakers discussed how the U.S. government is working toward reducing by 50 percent the cost of sending remittances by 2008, a goal articulated at the Special Summit of the Americas in January.

IAF senior representative Miriam Brandao represented the IAF at the March meeting of the White Water to Blue Water Partnership, a multi-sector initiative to promote the practice of integrated watershed and marine ecosystem management in support of sustainable development in the Caribbean Basin.

Kevin Healy, IAF representative for Bolivia, was the luncheon speaker at the Conference on Indigenous Leadership Challenges to the Old Guard in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, featuring Andean academic specialists and held May 21 by the Office of External Research of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Healy's PowerPoint presentation detailed the IAF's pioneering work with indigenous projects in Bolivia. In March Healy spoke on IAF-supported mapping projects at the Forum on Indigenous Community Mapping in Vancouver, Canada. In February he spoke on Latin American indigenous movements to the FLAG-Latin America Group, consisting of retired Foreign Service Officers. Later in the month, he also oriented Foreign Service Officers assigned to Latin America and shared lessons learned from IAF's experiences with staff from the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. Healy also spoke about the IAF to student groups from Eastern Mennonite University, Brigham Young University and The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars.

Joel E. Adriance, University of Virginia, worked with the Office of Evaluations.

Kevin P. Kirkwood, Graduate Faculty for Political and Social Sciences, New School University, researched aspects of transnationalism.

Martha Alvord, School of International Service, American University, worked with the Office of Evaluation.

Michelle J. McKenzie, School of International Service, American University evaluated Afro-Brazilian organizations.

Teresa Abruzzo, George Washington University, researched aspects of remittances.

Farewell

Leyda Appel, IAF translation officer, retired after almost 30 years of service.

Honors

Hispanics in Philanthropy (HIP) elected David Valenzuela chair of its board of directors. Founded in 1983 to promote stronger partnerships between organized philanthropy and Latino communities, HIP is a transnational association of grantmakers with more than 450 member corporate, public and private philanthropic institutions. For more information on HIP, log onto <www.hiponline.org>.